THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Government has not fixed any agency to purchase natural rubber.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In compliance with the judgement of the High Court of Kerala, Government has fixed and notified the minimum, price of the two most commonly used classes of rubber namely, Ribbed Smoked Sheet-4 (RSS-4) and Ribbed Smoked Sheet-5 (RSS-5) under Section 13 of the rubber Act, 1947. Internationally there is no categorization of Sheet rubber below RSS-5. The price of the small percentage of offgrade rubber which cannot be sold under specified grades is determined by the market forces.

Impact of recent terrorist strikes on US funding.

*32. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorist strikes in America have an adverse effect on the US funding of Indian programmes;

(b) if so, whether many of these programmes which are phased up to 2002 have been greatly affected;

(c) the total projects that were being undertaken jointly by US;

(d) to what extent they have been affected; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Information has been provided in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(d) No project has been affected by the terorist strikes in the US.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Projects being undertaken jointly by US

As on 30.9.2001

(US $ million)

Project No.	Project Title	Grant Assistance	Utilization
0496	Programme for Advancement Commercial Technology (PACT)	39.755	34.495
0515	Technical Assistance Support Project (TASP)	21.000	18.532
0517	Energy Management and Training (EMCAT)	27.000	25.658
0525	Aids Prevention and Control (APAC)	10.000	5.887
0527	Innovations in Family Planning Services (IFPS)	225.000	69.363
0530	Trade in Environmental Services and Technology	29.950	18.113
0531	Financial Institutions Reforms and Expansion (FIRE)	44.000	23.067
0534	Greenhouse Gas Pollution Prevention (GEEP)	39.000	18.144
0542	Energy Conservation and Commercialisation (ECO)	25.000	2.962
0544	AVERT:HIV/AIDS Prevention	41.500	0.273

Price rise and inflation

*33. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been abnormal price rise and inflation during the last three months which has adversely affected the poor.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and